

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING IN NEW YORK BETWEEN MAYOR KOCH AND
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU

REF: USUN 01488

SUMMARY. MAYOR KOCH EXPLAINED THE TIGHT SECURITY THAT HAD
NOW BEEN PROVIDED, ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT HE WAS IN NO
DANGER AND EXPLAINED TO PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU HIS UNDER-
STANDING OF WHY HUNGARIAN-AMERICANS WERE DEMONSTRATING.
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ALLEGED THAT PERMITTING THE DEMON-
STRATIONS VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS OF THE U.S.,
CHARGED THAT DEMONSTRATORS WERE INTERFERING IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA AND ALLEGED THAT MAYOR KOCH WAS SEEKING
TO JUSTIFY THE DEMONSTRATIONS. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LUERS EXPLAINED THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS
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TO DEMONSTRATE FOR ANY REASON, SAID THAT A DISTINCTION
MUST BE DRAWN BETWEEN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICY AND
PRIVATE POSITIONS, AND SOUGHT TO ASSURE PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU
THAT NOTHING THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE THE NIGHT BEFORE SHOULD
DETRACT FROM THE SUCCESSFUL VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. MAYOR KOCH, ACCOMPANIED BY LEGAL COUNSEL PHILT, TRIMBLE
AND POLICE COMMISSIONER MCGUIRE, CALLED ON PRESIDENT
CEAUSESCU AT THE WALDORF TOWERS ON MONDAY MORNING, APRIL
17 TO DISCUSS THE SECURITY PROBLEMS THAT DEVELOPED THE

THE NIGHT BEFORE (REFTEL). ALSO PRESENT IN THE DISCUSSION WERE FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI, SPECIAL ADVISER PUNGAN, AMBASSADOR AGGREY AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS AND THE INTERPRETER CELAC. THE MEETING LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR.

2. MAYOR KOCH WELCOMED THE PRESIDENT TO THE CITY, ASSURED HIM THAT ALL STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO INSURE HIS COMPLETE SECURITY AND SAFETY DURING THE REMAINDER OF HIS STAY AND SAID THAT, EVEN DURING THE PROBLEMS OF THE NIGHT BEFORE, THERE WAS AT NO TIME ANY THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE PRESIDENT OR HIS PARTY. THE MAYOR HOPED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE A PLEASANT STAY. THE MAYOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD REALIZE THAT HE, AS MAYOR, IS PICKETED EVERY DAY BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS THAT HAVE COMPLAINTS AGAINST HIS POLICIES, THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WHEN THEY VISIT NEW YORK ARE PICKETED AND THAT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST IMPORTANT PEOPLE ARE A WAY OF LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES. BUT, HE STRESSED, SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THREATS OF VIOLENCE.

3. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU REPLIED THAT MAYOR KOCH WAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, BUT HE AS THE PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA TOOK CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DEMONSTRATIONS AS AN ATTACK ON HIS COUNTRY. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT MANY OF THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE PEOPLE WHO HAD LEFT THEIR COUNTRY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND HAD FASCIST ATTITUDES. THEY WERE NOT ONLY OFFENDING HIS COUNTRY BUT INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THERE WAS INDEED A THREAT TO HIS SECURITY SINCE SOME OBJECTS HAD HIT HIS CAR ON HIS RETURN FROM THE UN MISSION. HE ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE NOISE AND SHOUTS BEING DIRECTED AT HIS ROOM FROM THE BULL HORNS CARRIED BY THE CROWDS.

4. THE MAYOR EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NO REAL THREAT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT, THAT ONLY ONE EGG HIT THE CAR. THE PRESIDENT INTERJECTED THAT THE EGG COULD HAVE BEEN A BOMB. THE MAYOR, SPEAKING CANDIDLY, SAID THAT MANY OF THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE PEOPLE HE KNEW VERY WELL. HE ASKED THE PRESIDENT WHETHER HE WOULD BE OFFENDED IF THE MAYOR WERE TO TRY TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION. THE PRESIDENT SAID NO HE WOULD NOT BE OFFENDED. THE MAYOR PROCEEDED TO EXPLAIN THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS, AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION, WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HUNGARIANS IN ROMANIA TO BE EDUCATED IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE. HE SAID HE WAS SHOWN REGULATIONS THAT WERE PROMULGATED IN ROMANIA WHICH DESCRIBED HOW HUNGARIAN CHILDREN ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AS OPPOSED TO ROMANIAN CHILDREN IN BEING ABLE TO STUDY THEIR OWN LANGUAGE AND GO TO SCHOOL. THE MAYOR WENT ON AT SOME

LENGTH CITING SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT EDUCATION.

5. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT HE WAS DISTURBED THAT THE MAYOR WAS SEEKING TO JUSTIFY THE DEMONSTRATION, THAT THIS CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA AND MOREOVER THE MAYOR'S INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION REGARDING EDUCATION FOR HUNGARIANS IN ROMANIA WAS INCORRECT. THE PRESIDENT TRIED TO EXPLAIN HIS OWN
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APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION REGARDING THE ETHNIC HUNGARIANS IN ROMANIA. HE SAID HE WOULD INVITE MAYOR KOCH TO ROMANIA TO SEE FOR HIMSELF AND TO SHOW HIM FILMS OF HIS FREQUENT VISITS TO PARTS OF ROMANIA WHERE ETHNIC HUNGARIANS LIVE TO SHOW HOW WELL HE IS RECEIVED AMONG THESE GROUPS. THE PRESIDENT THEN SAID IT WAS NOT HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN. HE SAID THAT THE CALLS FROM THE BULL HORN AND THE SIGNS SUGGESTED MORE SERIOUS CHARGES (THE SIGNS BEING CARRIED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE MARKED "HITLER, STALIN, CEAUSESCU, ALL KILLERS"). THE PRESIDENT OFFERED TO PROVIDE TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE SHOUTING. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FREQUENTLY COMPLAINS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR CRITICISM OF THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND FOR ALLEGED INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE CITED U.S. COMPLAINTS ABOUT COMMENTS FROM ABROAD REGARDING PUERTO RICO. HE SAID THE U.S. HAS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND THESE OBLIGATIONS OVERRIDE DOMESTIC LAWS. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AGREES WITH MAYOR KOCH SPECIFICALLY WITH THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE MAYOR
TO JUSTIFY THE DEMONSTRATIONS.

6. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE POINTS RAISED BY THE PRESIDENT. LUERS FIRST SAID THAT HE WANTED THE PRESIDENT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT REGRETTED ANY INCONVENIENCE THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT HAD CAUSED IN HIS SCHEDULING, THAT FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE POLICE COVERAGE OF THE DEMONSTRATION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE HAD
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NOW BEEN CORRECTED AND THAT, AS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER AND MAYOR HAD INDICATED, ASSURANCE HAD BEEN PROVIDED THAT FULLY ADEQUATE SECURITY WOULD BE MAINTAINED DURING THE REMAINDER OF HIS VISIT. SECONDLY, LUERS SAID THE DEMON-

STRATIONS ARE PERMITTED AS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT. INDIVIDUALS MAY DEMONSTRATE ON ANY SUBJECT AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT PRESENT ANY THREAT TO THE PEACE OR DANGER TO INDIVIDUALS. LUERS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH

THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE NOISE AND A LARGER THAN EXPECTED CROWD THERE HAD BEEN NO VIOLENCE AND AT NO TIME WAS THERE ANY RISK TO THE LIVES OR SECURITY OF THE ROMANIAN PARTY. THIS RIGHT, GUARANTEED BY U.S. LAW, APPLIES TO FOREIGNERS AND AMERICANS ALIKE. THIRD, AS TO THE QUESTION OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, LUERS AGREED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS OBLIGATIONS NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. BUT THERE IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICY AND THE ACTS OF PRIVATE CITIZENS. THE DEMONSTRATORS DID NOT REFLECT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOR DO THEY, AS THE PRESIDENT MUST RECALL, REFLECT THE FEELINGS OF MANY HUNDREDS OF AMERICANS THAT HE GREETED DURING HIS TRIP AROUND THE UNITED STATES. LUERS SAID THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENTS TRAVELING ABROAD FOR DECADES HAVE BEEN OBJECTS OF DEMONSTRATIONS INCLUDING EVEN ACTS OF VIOLENCE. ONE OF THE DISADVANTAGES FOR WORLD FIGURES IS THAT THEY DO INEVITABLY EVOKE STRONG REACTION AMONG CERTAIN GROUPS. IT SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING THAT THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN NEW YORK OR OTHER PLACES. FOURTHLY, LUERS SAID THAT, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE, AS THE MAYOR INDICATED, COMPLAINING ABOUT EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS FOR HUNGARIANS IN ROMANIA, THIS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA. INDEED, WHEN AMERICAN OFFICIALS VISIT MEXICO, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY FREQUENTLY HEAR COMPLAINTS FROM MEXICANS THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT PROVIDED ADEQUATE SPANISH LANGUAGE

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EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR MEXICAN-AMERICANS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES. LUERS WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT TO THE EXTENT THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE REFLECTING ANY ATTITUDE OF IRREDENTISM ON THE PART OF HUNGARIANS TOWARD TRANSYLVANIA, IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY IN NO WAY SUPPORTS SUCH A CLAIM. THE UNITED STATES STANDS FIRMLY FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ROMANIA AND DOES NOT CONDONE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST ROMANIA. AT THIS POINT MAYOR KOCH SAID THAT HE AGREED COMPLETELY WITH THE POSITION ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND WHAT LUERS HAD SAID ABOUT THE OTHER ISSUES. HE SAID THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK ON THESE ISSUES. LUERS CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HE HOPED THAT NOTHING THAT HAD OCCURRED IN NEW YORK WOULD IN ANY WAY DAMAGE THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE ISSUED WITHIN A FEW HOURS IN WASHINGTON AND BUCHAREST THAT WOULD CONTAIN THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS

WITH REGARD TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS.

7. THE PRESIDENT THANKED LUERS FOR HIS STATEMENT AND SAID

HE WOULD NOT LET THE DEMONSTRATION DETRACT FROM HIS GOOD OVERALL IMPRESSION OF HIS VISIT AND HIS IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS. THE PRESIDENT SAID TO THE MAYOR THAT HE HOPED THAT THE MAYOR WOULD ON SOME OCCASION VISIT ROMANIA TO FIND OUT FOR HIMSELF THE ACTUAL SITUATION. THE PRESIDENT ASSURED THE MAYOR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST HIM AND THAT HE WOULD TRAVEL WHERE HE WISHED. THE MAYOR SAID HE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT ROMANIA AT SOME POINT. HE DEPARTED ON A COOL, BUT PROPER
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NOTE.

8. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, MR. ANDREI AND SPECIAL ADVISER PUNGAN, AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENT'S INTERPRETER CELAC, TOLD AMBASSADOR AGGREY AND LUERS THAT THE PRESENTATION OF THE MAYOR HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DISTURBING TO THE PRESIDENT BUT THAT LUERS' STATEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL. THEY BELIEVED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS NOW SATISFIED. ON THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE HE SEEMED WELL PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT. IT IS NOT OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE NEW YORK INCIDENT WILL DAMAGE SERIOUSLY THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT. CHRISTOPHER

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